

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 22 as set forth below.

The current listing of claims replaces all prior listings.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A human embryoid body derived (EBD) cell characterized by: forming disaggregated single cells upon dissociation from embryoid bodies (EB) and adhesion to defined extracellular matrix components lacking a feeder layer and lacking leukemia inhibitory factor; and having the ability to be maintained in culture on the defined extracellular matrix components in the absence of a feeder layer for at least thirty population doublings without being immortal under these conditions.

2-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The EBD cell of claim 1, wherein the EBD cells proliferate for at least sixty population doublings without being immortal under these conditions.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The EBD cell of claim 1, wherein the EBD cells are transfectable with a retrovirus or a lentivirus or both.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The EBD cell of claim 1, wherein the EBD cells are clonal.

16. (Previously Presented). The culture of claim 15, wherein the EBD cells are clonally derived from a single EBD cell.

17-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining a human embryoid body derived (EBD) cell comprising:

(a) culturing primordial germ cells in a media comprising human basic fibroblast growth factor and lacking leukemia inhibitory factor under conditions that allow formation of a solid or cystic embryoid body having a 3-dimensional morphology;

(b) disaggregating the solid or cystic embryoid body under enzymatic conditions to provide a constituent cell or embryoid body derived (EBD) cell; and

(c) culturing the EBD cell in the absence of a feeder layer

wherein the EBD cell is characterized as forming disaggregated single cells upon dissociation from embryoid bodies (EB) for at least 30 population doublings without being immortal under these conditions; ~~and wherein the media is selected from the group consisting of serum-free media and media containing less than 15% serum.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 comprising selecting a single EBD cell from the EBD cells and culturing the single EBD cell to produce a clonal population of cells.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 comprising culturing the-EBD cell in a media selected from the group consisting of RPMI 1640 supplemented with 15% serum and media consisting essentially of hEGF, hydrocortisone, gentamicin, amphotericin-B, fetal bovine serum, VEGF, heparin, recombinant human IGF-1 and ascorbic acid.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 comprising culturing the EBD cell in a media consisting essentially of hEGF, hydrocortisone, gentamicin, amphotericin-B, fetal bovine serum, VEGF, heparin, recombinant human IGF-1 and ascorbic acid.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 comprising culturing the EBD cell on the defined extracellular matrix components.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the one or more defined extracellular matrix components are selected from the group consisting of collagen I, human extracellular matrix extract, and tissue culture-treated plastic.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the one or more defined extracellular matrix components are selected from the group consisting of collagen I and human extracellular matrix.

30.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 comprising culturing the population of proliferating EBD cells for at least 30 population doublings.

33.-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method of obtaining a human EBD cell of claim 22, wherein the enzyme includes collagenase, dispase, or both.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising expanding the proliferating cells on one or more defined extracellular matrix components.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the one or more defined extracellular matrix components are selected from the group consisting of collagen I, human extracellular matrix extract, and tissue culture-treated plastic.

38. (Canceled)